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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE
PERIOD 1992-1997

MAJOR PROGRAMME V. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 25. Global social issues and policies

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.
2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.
3. The revisions proposed below modify the relevant parts of the narrative of programme 25, Global social issues and policies, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and subsequently revised by the Assembly in its resolution 47/214 of 23 December 1992 and issued in document A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1. The revisions reflect the outcome of the intergovernmental process in the field of social development after the first revision of the plan as well as the restructuring of the Secretariat. A new subprogramme 4, Strategies for poverty eradication, is proposed under this programme in line with the mandates laid down in Assembly resolutions 48/183 and 48/184 of 21 December 1993.
4. The following text modifies paragraphs 25.1, 25.5, 25.8 to 25.10, 25.18 and 25.20 of A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1 and proposes new paragraphs 25.24 to 25.28.

A. Programme

1. General orientation

Paragraph 25.1

Add a reference to General Assembly resolutions 47/92, 47/197, 48/166, 48/183 and 48/184.

2. Overall strategy

Paragraph 25.5

Replace paragraph 25.5 with the following:

"25.5 The programme will be implemented by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. It is closely related to, and provides input for, other programmes implemented by the Department, particularly those on social integration and the advancement of women, and contributes to the more specialized forms of action to be undertaken by those related programmes."

Paragraph 25.8

Replace paragraph 25.8 with the following:

"25.8 The programme is closely related to the programmes implemented by the Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis. Cooperation with the regional commissions and UNDP will be maintained, as well as with other entities of the United Nation system, inter alia, through the established inter-agency cooperation mechanisms."

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

Paragraph 25.9

At the end of the paragraph, add the following:

"Subprogramme 4. Strategies for poverty eradication".

Paragraph 25.10

Replace "subprogrammes 1 and 3 are" with "subprogramme 4 is".

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 2. SOCIAL POLICY DESIGN, PLANNING AND COORDINATION

Paragraph 25.18

Replace subparagraph (b) with the following:

"(b) To support implementation of social components of the international development strategy and the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development".

SUBPROGRAMME 3. FAMILIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Paragraph 25.20 Add a reference to General Assembly resolution 47/237 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/23.

After paragraph 25.23, insert the following:

"SUBPROGRAMME 4. STRATEGIES FOR POVERTY ERADICATION

"(a) Objectives

"25.24 The legislative authority for the subprogramme is derived from General Assembly resolutions 47/192, 48/183 and 48/184. At its forty-eighth session the Assembly: (a) selected the topic of alleviation and reduction of poverty as one of the three core issues to be considered by the World Summit for Social Development; and (b) proclaimed the year 1996 the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty.

"25.25 The persistence of poverty on a massive scale remains one of the major challenges at the global level. In the 1950s and 1960s general development and focused public policies succeeded in reducing the extent and intensity of poverty in some regions. While such progress has continued in certain countries, in many others poverty levels have again risen, in some cases sharply, and there has been re-emergence of poverty where it had been effectively reduced in the past to a peripheral problem.

"25.26 Much experience has been accumulated over the past decades with programmes intended to reduce poverty or alleviate its effects. There is general awareness that there are many different manifestations of poverty and many causes, each of which needs to be addressed by special policy measures, both national and international. The focus of the programme will be on developing a comprehensive approach to poverty eradication, drawing on the experience gained in many separate efforts that have been undertaken at different levels, local, national, regional and international, and by many social actors, including public authorities, the private sector and the diverse institutions of civil society.

"25.27 The objective of the subprogramme is to assist Governments to assess trends in poverty levels at the global, regional and national levels, to identify specific causes of poverty and to exchange experience in the measurement of poverty and in the assessment of the effectiveness of specific policies and programmes at the international and national levels, and to support the elaboration and implementation of national strategies for poverty eradication, particularly in developing countries.

"(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

"25.28 The emphasis of secretariat activities will be on (a) the collection, analysis and dissemination of successful experiences in dealing with mass poverty as well as a wide range of specific poverty situations, including the situation of the working poor, the unemployed or casually employed and poverty in relation to environmental degradation and among

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disadvantaged population groups; (b) evaluation and promotion of experiences regarding application of institutional arrangements and internal coordination mechanisms in poverty eradication strategies, including arrangements for harmonizing actions by the public and the private sectors and those of non-governmental organizations; and (c) preparation for and follow-up to the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996)."
